

MEDIA RELEASE

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New study to examine the health of Australian biotech

A new study launched by Research Australia today will take an in depth look at the wellbeing of Australian biotechnology.

Attracting research and development funding, positioning in the market, strategic development, management and prospects of future growth will be the focus of the investigation.

Approximately 100 biotechnology companies will be approached to participate in the study, which will report on large and small biotech companies from across the health sector.

The study is a follow-up to an earlier 2004 investigation that explored the research origins and commercial experiences of 100 health biotech companies in Australia.

Research Australia Chief Executive Officer Rebecca James said the data would provide a valuable snapshot of the emergence of biotechnology as a growth industry for Australia.

“Beyond Discovery 2007 will showcase examples of biotechnology success stories and highlight critical issues impacting on future growth prospects.”

“It is timely to revisit the 2004 study and report on the progress that participating organisations may have made as well as identifying emerging issues that will impact on the development of Australia’s health and medical research sector,” Ms James said

Beyond Discovery 2004 highlighted issues that generated considerable interest within the industry, media and policy-makers. Since then there have been significant changes within the policy and economic environments that are likely to have had an impact. These include the 2006 Federal Budget with increased research and development funding, the improved tax environment for research and development spending, and calling of another round of IIF funds in 2006.

Beyond Discovery 2007 is chaired by Professor Michael Vitale, Director, Commercialisation, Monash Asia-Pacific Centre for Science and Wealth Creation, and is expected to be released in late October.

Please contact Dr Noel Chambers on 0412 357 893 if you wish to participate in this study.

About Research Australia

Research Australia is a unique national alliance of over 190 member and donor organisations with a common mission to make health and medical research a higher national priority. For more information on Research Australia visit www.researchaustralia.org

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